

In the Specification

Please amend page 6 lines 9-18 as follows:

In another aspect the present invention provides a node in a communications network comprising ~~a receiver for receiving a signal, a transmitter for the onward transmission of a signal, at least one of the received signal and the transmitted signal being an optical signal, and~~ an optical waveguide device comprising at least one optical input for receiving an optical signal; at least one optical output for the output of an optical signal; and an optical waveguide connected between said input and said output; wherein said optical waveguide comprises a strip loaded waveguide, and the device further comprises an additional material positioned adjacent at least a portion of the waveguide, the material having a higher refractive index than the waveguide such that an optical signal guided by the waveguide will at least partially couple into the material.

In the Drawings

Figure 2 has been reproduced more clearly and a replacement sheet is attached. To aid even further, a version in color is also attached.